

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The original claims have been cancelled in favor of new Claims 19-24. Applicants reserve the right to assert the invention of non-elected Claims 7-11 and 16-18 in a divisional patent application.

New Claim 19 recites a brake drum in a wet type band brake having a brake band formed with a frictional member on an inner surface thereof, the brake band being applied to an outer peripheral surface of the brake drum to effect braking by frictional engagement of the frictional member with the outer peripheral surface of the brake drum.

This is to be contrasted with the friction brake of Shields, relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in which the lining is fixed to the outer surface of the brake drum and braking is effected by frictional engagement between the outer surface of the lining and the inner surface of a surrounding brake band.

Furthermore, Claim 19 recites that the outer peripheral surface of the brake drum is formed with a multiplicity of annular grooves extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum and a multiplicity of annular convex portions extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum and each being formed between respective neighboring grooves, and each annular convex portion has

an arcuate cross section which is devoid of angled edge portions and smoothly connects the respective neighboring grooves. In Shields, there are no annular grooves and there are no annular convex portions.

In Wakisaka et al., there may be annular grooves, but contrary to the assertions in the rejections based on this reference, there are no convex arcuate cross sections. Moreover, there are no arcuate cross sections devoid of angled edge portions, as now recited in Claim 19.

Accordingly, Claim 19 and dependent Claim 23 should now be allowed.

Claim 20 recites, inter alia, annular land portions extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum and each having a same diameter and recites that the land portions have arcuate cross sections each of which is devoid of angled edge portions and smoothly connects the land portion and the respective neighboring grooves. From the foregoing discussion of Claim 19 vis-a-vis Shields and Wakisaka et al., it is apparent that Claim 20 and dependent Claim 24 distinguish patentably from these references and should be allowed.

Claim 21 recites, inter alia, that the outer peripheral surface of the brake drum is formed with a spiral groove extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum and a spiral crest neighboring the spiral groove and extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum, and that the spiral crest has a same diameter and

an arcuate cross section which is devoid of angled edge portions and smoothly connects neighboring groove portions.

Claim 22 recites, inter alia, that the outer peripheral surface of the brake drum is formed with a spiral groove extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum and a spiral crest neighboring the spiral groove and extending in a rotational direction of the brake drum, and that the spiral crest has a land portion which has a same diameter and has ends in a widthwise direction that have respective arcuate cross sections devoid of angled edge portions and that are smoothly connected to neighboring groove portions.

It is apparent from the foregoing discussion of the references vis-a-vis Claim 19 that Claims 21 and 22 distinguish patentably from the prior art and should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

By: Nelson H. Shapiro
Nelson H. Shapiro
Reg. No. 17,095

December 21, 2004